

bill within its four corners. I thought that was why we sought the sequential referral, in order to consider and improve the bill where we could.

I worked with Senator FEINSTEIN, the chair of the Select Committee on Intelligence. We came to an understanding and she supported the substitute amendment I offered to shorten the sunset and add more accountability and oversight protections. I thank her for that. I am always willing to work with the Senator from California, who is so diligent in her efforts on the Intelligence Committee. We reached a good compromise and agreement.

I had circulated the core of my amendment, to shorten the sunset, back on July 11, before the bill was to be considered. At the request of Republican members of the Judiciary Committee, the bill was held over. I protected their right to do so under our rules. We finally proceeded to the bill last Thursday, July 19. Despite the delay, no Republicans spoke to me about any potential amendments to the bill.

Instead, the evening before the delayed markup, for the first time, Republican offices circulated scores of amendments. It is unfortunate that there have been mischaracterizations of our committee process. Contrary to the statements of some on the other side, no one was precluded from offering an amendment. In fact, a number were offered by Republican Senators. The committee proceeded to vote on Senator KYL's amendment, for example, to create a new material support of terrorism offense in title 18, and rejected it after Senator FEINSTEIN argued against including it on this important measure, despite her support for the substance of the amendment. We proceeded to vote on Senator LEE's amendment, which was about FISA surveillance, and it, too, was defeated. So despite the misstatements to the contrary, the committee proceeded to consider and reject amendments.

There came a point during our initial 2-hour markup when Senator FEINSTEIN urged that amendments about matters not involving the FISA Amendments Act extension be considered on other vehicles at other times, and moved to table amendments. Those motions prevailed. We have had such motions before and sometimes they succeed.

After 2 hours, as Republican Senators left, we lost a quorum and had to reconvene to vote on reporting the bill as amended to the Senate. I thank those Senators from both sides of the aisle who reconvened. The committee voted to report the measure and was able to do so within the short timeframe of our sequential referral.

The FISA Amendments Act legislation is a top priority of the administration and our intelligence community. We have all acknowledged that. The ranking member acknowledged that it is "a program vital to our national security." A number of Republicans proclaimed last week that they were ready

to expedite consideration of the measure and would not offer amendments. Then, when the committee adopted the June 2015 sunset date instead of one of the 2017 dates in other versions of the bill, they changed position and sought to use it as a vehicle for extraneous matters and to offer a number of riders to it that were rejected. I do not understand that logic and why the change in the sunset date or the addition of oversight provisions should change the character of the bill or its importance to our national security. The bill is needed to continue the authority to conduct electronic surveillance of non-U.S. persons overseas under certain procedures approved by the FISA Court.

The Justice Department and DNI have told us:

[It] is vital in keeping the Nation safe. It provides information about the plans and identities of terrorists, allowing us to glimpse inside terrorist organizations and obtain information about how those groups function and receive support. In addition, it lets us collect information about the intentions and capabilities of weapons proliferators and other foreign adversaries who threaten the United States. Failure to reauthorize Section 702 would result in a loss of significant intelligence and impede the ability of the intelligence community to respond quickly to new threats and intelligence opportunities.

The committee agreed with Senator FEINSTEIN when she asked us not to open the bill up to "extraneous amendments." As it was, the committee considered half a dozen amendments offered by Republican Senators. I appreciated Senator KYL volunteering to have his staff convene a meeting to consider amendments to our terrorist statutes that he does not think will be controversial.

Notably, the vast majority of the amendments filed and offered by the Republicans would not have changed or added a single word to either the underlying bill or the underlying statute. Senator LEE's amendment was the only Republican amendment that dealt in any way with the relevant FISA authorities. That amendment received an up-or-down vote by the committee, and most Republican members voted against it.

Once it became clear that the Republican Senators intended to offer a series of extraneous amendments, Senator FEINSTEIN moved to table amendments that were not germane to her bill. She has that right. I protect the rights of all members of the committee, Republicans and Democrats. Four such amendments were tabled, but notably they were tabled by a vote of the full committee, not simply through a ruling by the chairman or my making up rules, as Republican chairmen have done in the past. Indeed, although a motion to table is typically not subject to debate, I asked the committee's indulgence to permit such discussion. No Senator was cut off from offering amendments or engaging in debate.

It is telling that the two amendments that Senator GRASSLEY offered during the committee's consideration of the FISA Amendments Act had absolutely no connection whatsoever with the provisions of title VII of FISA. The first amendment that Senator GRASSLEY offered would have added the death penalty as a punishment to certain crimes involving weapons of mass destruction. The second amendment that he offered would have required a Department of Justice Inspector General audit of criminal wiretap applications from 2009 to 2010. This amendment may be important to Senator GRASSLEY in the context of the Fast and Furious controversy, but it certainly is not relevant to the FISA Amendments Act. Senator FEINSTEIN moved to table both amendments and the motion carried each time.

Let us be accurate, Republican members of the committee were afforded the opportunity to offer amendments, even ones outside the scope of the legislation. The committee has a process, and we followed that process.

I understand that Republican Senators are disappointed that they were not able to use the FISA Amendments Act legislation as a vehicle to carry other legislation. I am disappointed that, as with so many good bills the committee has reported, there was so little Republican support for a measure that everyone concedes is vital to our national security. Like the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, which received no Republican vote on this committee; and the Second Chance Act, which received no Republican votes on this committee after a number of Republican amendments were considered and even though it had been a program strongly supported by Republicans historically; the FISA Amendments Act Sunsets Extension Act was not supported by a single Republican Senator on this committee.

Let me remind Senators, again, that the Director of National Intelligence and the Attorney General have emphasized that the reauthorization of the FISA Amendments Act is the intelligence community's "top legislative priority." I encourage any Senator who has not yet done so to review the classified information that the administration has provided to Congress about the implementation of the FISA Amendments Act. This is a measure that requires serious debate and swift action not partisan bickering or baseless accusations. I sincerely hope that we can set aside the election year posturing and press ahead with consideration of this important national security measure. The American people deserve no less.

FAA SUNSETS EXTENSION ACT

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, on July 19, the Judiciary Committee considered legislation to reauthorize the title VII provisions of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. These surveillance authorities are vital to our

national security, and it is imperative that they be reauthorized before they expire at the end of this year. The reauthorization bill is narrow in scope, and many amendments were proposed at the committee markup that had little or nothing to do with the reauthorization of FISA. As I stated during the markup, I may have supported or been open to working out a compromise on several of the amendments in other contexts. However, I voted in opposition to all of the extraneous amendments offered because I felt their adoption would threaten the timely passage of the FISA reauthorization bill. That is not a risk I was willing to take.

In particular, as for Senator KYL's amendment to criminalize certain behavior that would reward past terrorist acts and Senator GRASSLEY's amendment to impose the death penalty on terrorists who use weapons of mass destruction, I want to make clear that I strongly oppose the funding of terrorism and I believe that terrorists should be subject to the death penalty. I support the objectives of both of these amendments, but I was concerned that their adoption by the committee could delay or prevent passage of the FISA reauthorization bill. I am prepared to work with Senator KYL and Senator GRASSLEY to address these important issues at a more appropriate time going forward.

I hope that these amendments and others are raised in the appropriate context so they can be adequately addressed.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL PAUL W. BRICKER

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, our men and women in uniform sacrifice much to keep our Nation strong and free. They are well-trained, extraordinarily capable and are some of our country's best and brightest. It is with this in mind that I recognize COL Paul W. Bricker as he retires from the United States Army this week. Colonel Bricker has served our country in uniform for more than a quarter of a century, and I am honored to congratulate him on a long and distinguished military career.

COL Paul W. Bricker has served as the Chief of the Army's Senate Liaison Division since May 2011. As a member of the Secretary of the Army's Office of Legislative Liaison, Colonel Bricker was responsible for advising Army senior leadership on legislative and congressional issues, as well as assisting Senators and our staff on Army matters. It is in this capacity that my Armed Services Committee staff and I have worked closely with Colonel Bricker. Throughout his tenure, he has consistently provided important technical expertise and useful insight on the issues, challenges and opportunities that face our soldiers and their families and has exemplified the highest level of professionalism. I also benefited from Colonel Bricker's organiza-

tional diligence and military insights on a number of congressional delegation trips over the past year, including to Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkey and NATO. The success of these trips were due in large part to Colonel Bricker's careful preparation and adaptability in making course corrections on the fly, often literally.

Colonel Bricker has strong Michigan roots. He is a native of northern Michigan and a proud graduate of Michigan State University, where, upon graduation, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant of Aviation. Colonel Bricker has served in a variety of tactical and operational assignments from platoon to corps level in airborne, air assault, light infantry, and motorized units in the United States, Afghanistan, Iraq, and South Korea. He has commanded in combat with the 82nd Airborne Division at both the battalion and brigade level. Additionally, in 2007, he served as the 82nd Airborne Division's Rear Detachment Commander, and from 2005–2006, as the Chief of Aviation for the Multi National Corps-Iraq.

From 2008 to 2010, Colonel Bricker commanded the 82nd Airborne Division's Combat Aviation Brigade and led them to war on short notice as part of the Afghanistan surge. He assumed no-notice responsibility for the DoD Consequence Management Response Force Aviation Brigade while simultaneously executing Department of the Army Pilot Reset. Once in Afghanistan, his brigade supported more than 40,000 coalition troops in Regional Command-South with lift, reconnaissance, MEDEVAC, and attack aviation. They executed the largest air assault in our nation's history without error or incident, a testament to his exceptional leadership. Colonel Bricker's brigade was commended by the ISAF Joint Command Deputy Commander for his exceptional maintenance and safety record under the most trying combat conditions.

We know that our military personnel don't shoulder the stress and sacrifice of military service alone, and Colonel Bricker is no exception. His wife, Katie, and their three children, Jacob, Jesse and Sophia, have proudly stood by his side, sacrificing time with their husband and father while he fulfills his military commitments.

As he retires, Colonel Bricker leaves behind an impressive record of military service and his counsel, professionalism and expertise will surely be missed. Throughout his service to our Nation, Colonel Bricker has been a shining example for the people of Michigan and the United States, and for this, we offer him our heartfelt thanks. I know my colleagues join me in wishing Colonel Bricker and his family all the best as he begins the next chapter in his life.

22ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, July 26, 1990—22 years ago today was a great day in our Nation's history. When President George Herbert Walker Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act, we could see the future before us, full of possibility and opportunity for people with disabilities. It was one of the proudest days of my legislative career.

The Americans with Disabilities Act is one of the landmark civil rights laws of the 20th century—a long-overdue emancipation proclamation for Americans with disabilities. The ADA has played a huge role in making our country more accessible, in raising the expectations of people with disabilities about what they can hope to achieve at work and in life, and in inspiring the world to view disability issues through the lens of equality and opportunity.

In these times, it is valuable to remember that passage of the original Americans with Disabilities Act was a robustly bipartisan effort. As chief sponsor of the ADA in the Senate, I worked very closely with Senator Bob Dole and others on both sides of the aisle. We received invaluable support from President George Herbert Walker Bush and key members of his administration, including White House Counsel Boyden Gray, Attorney General Dick Thornburgh, and Transportation Secretary Sam Skinner. Other Members of Congress also played critical roles in passing the ADA first and foremost, Senator Ted Kennedy; but also Senator ORRIN HATCH, and Representatives Tony Coelho, STENY HOYER, Major Owens, and Steve Bartlett.

Before the ADA, life was very different for folks with disabilities in Iowa and across the country. Being an American with a disability meant not being able to ride on a bus because there was no lift, not being able to attend a concert or ball game because there was no accessible seating, and not being able to cross the street in a wheelchair because there were no curb cuts. In short, it meant not being able to work or participate in community life. Discrimination was both commonplace and accepted.

Since then, we have seen amazing progress. The ADA literally transformed the American landscape by requiring that architectural and communications barriers be removed and replaced with accessible features such as ramps, lifts, curb cuts, widening doorways, and closed captioning. More importantly, the ADA gave millions of Americans the opportunity to participate in their communities. We have made substantial progress in advancing the four goals of the ADA—equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency.

But despite this progress, we still have more work to do. Last month marked the 13th anniversary of the